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# Kazan Returns, Denies He Ever Worked for CIA

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CPYRGHT

Vladimir Kazan-Komarek, gaunt, tired and 20 pounds thinner, arrived home Saturday night after more than three months imprisonment in Czechoslovakia.

Kazan, released by Czech authorities after being convicted of treason and espionage, met his wife, Dorothy, at Kennedy International Airport in New York in the afternoon after flying in from Prague by way of Paris.

The 42-year-old Wellesley Hills travel agent held a press conference, at which he told a jostling crowd of reporters and photographers that the charges against him were "15 years old and absolutely untrue" and that he "never" worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

On the plane back to Boston, however, Kazan said he had never denied some of the charges.

Asked if he had been a ham radio operator, he laughed and replied, "I was a professional."

The Czech government had spirited Kazan away from the Prague airport and boarded a Russian plane on his way back to the U.S., and subsequently charged him with espionage.

He was accused of having shot at a border guard while escaping from Czechoslovakia in 1948 and of having worked with foreign agents to supply the "organization" with weapons, radios and funds.

Kazan, father of five, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment last Wednesday after a three-day trial, but massive pressure from U.S. officials, including Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, may have prompted the Czechs to release Kazan and expel him from the country.

(According to UPI, sources in Vienna say the Czechs decided several weeks before the trial to release Kazan. These sources said the Czech government was surprised by the fact the U.S. made over the arrest of the naturalized U.S. citizen.)

Kazan said Saturday he had felt all along that he would be released.

"The first real knowledge I had was 5 p.m. Friday, when I settled my prison account," he said. "I only had an idea up until then."

Before his release Saturday morning, Kazan was accompanied by his 66-year-old mother, whom he had not seen since 1948, and his 43-year-old brother.